

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 0448 ACTION SESTATE INFO MANAGUA
PANAMA 29 JAN

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, NU, PN, CS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO COMMENTS ON OAS

HEADQUARTERS SITE AND RESTRICTIONS FOR

NICARAGUANS AND PANAMANIAN

1. IN HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 27,
FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION,
DISCUSSED THE SUITABILITY OF COSTA RICA TO BE THE NEW
SEAT OF THE OAS IF IT IS DECIDED TO MOVE THE
HEADQUARTERS FROM WASHINGTON. FACIO REPORTEDLY STATED
THAT SAN JOSE WAS IDEAL FOR MANY REASONS AND THAT HE
WOULD MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST ON THE MATTER TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIS COLLEAGUES
IN OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES). THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY
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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE FACIO DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH

AMBASSADOR AND USOAS DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE WHITE ON
DECEMBER 5, 1975.

2. FACIO ALSO ANNOUNCED A NEW POLICY OF VISAS FOR
PANAMANIAN AND NICARAGUANS WISHING TO COME TO
COSTA RICA. THOSE PANAMANIAN AND NICARAGUANS WHO
ARE ARRIVING FROM THIRD COUNTRY MUST REQUEST A
VISA AHEAD OF TIME FROM A COSTA RICAN CONSUL AND
THEY MUST BE CHECKED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
AND THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY BEFORE BEING
GRANTED THE VISA. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED TO
EMBOFF THAT THIS SYSTEM, TO PREVENT PANAMANIAN AND
NICARAGUANS FROM USING COSTA RICAN SOIL IN PLANNING
ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTS OF COSTA RICAN
NEIGHBORS, WAS DECIDED UPON AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATIONS
WITH THE GON AND THE GOP AND IS ALREADY IN EFFECT.
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